

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Electrodes for an electrochemical cell such as a proton
exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell are treated with steam or a
5 hot solution before they are bonded to a membrane to form a
membrane-electrode assembly. Such a treatment effectively
increases the performance of the electrodes when they are
subsequently tested within the PEM fuel cell. Improved
performance is also observed using this technique with a
catalyst-coated membrane and a membrane-electrode assembly.